

REMARKS

Claims 24-28 and 58-93 are pending. Applicant has canceled claims 1-11, 13-23, 29-40, 42, 47, and 49-57. Applicant has amended claim 24 and added claims 58-99 to more explicitly recite aspects of the invention.

The pending claims are directed to a master and slave control architecture for maintaining synchronization of streams of a presentation. The master control maintains a master timeline for the presentation. Each slave control maintains a timeline of one of the streams. When a slave control detects a change in the master timeline, the slave control alters the timeline for its stream to accommodate the changed master timeline.

The Examiner has rejected claims 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Katseff. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants are puzzled by the Examiner's rationale for rejecting claim 24. The Examiner states that

Kalra does not explicitly disclose:

- a master control component to maintain a master timeline for a multimedia presentation col. 3, lines 47-67, col. 4, lines 55-67, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 6, lines 60-67, and col. 7, lines 1-3); and
- a plurality of individual stream controls corresponding to individual data streams for the multimedia presentation, wherein each of the plurality of individual stream controls is to maintain a timeline for the corresponding individual data stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 6, lines 60-67, and col. 7, lines 1-3).

Katseff discloses a networked multimedia information system to store and distribute multimedia objects over a network to a plurality of workstations including:

- a master control component to maintain a master timeline for a multimedia presentation (col. 9, lines 16-22);

- a plurality of individual stream controls corresponding to individual data streams for the multimedia presentation, wherein each of the plurality of individual stream controls is to maintain a timeline for the corresponding individual data stream (col. 9, lines 16-22, col. 13, lines 56-67 and col. 14, lines 1-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention as made to have incorporated the teachings of Katseff with the method of Kalra for the purpose of controlling video playback in which a user can manipulate and control the playback speed of the of the presentation.

(Office Action, October 19, 2004, pp. 4-5.)

The Examiner thus believes that Kalra discloses no limitations of claim 24, but that Katseff discloses all the limitations. If the Examiner believes that Katseff discloses all the limitation of claim 24, then the rejection should be based on Section 102, rather than Section 103. Applicant requests clarification.

Regardless of whether Katseff alone or Kalra in combination with Katseff is considered, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to use a master control and slave controls for the stream. The Examiner relies on 9:16-22 and 13:56-14:6 of Katseff as describing a master control and slave controls. These portions of Katseff, however, describe that when the playback speed is changed, the "video process will adjust the rate of data being requested from the storage and retrieval system 70 to the selected playback speed." (Katseff, 14:1-6.) There is nothing in these portions of Katseff to suggest that a slave control (or individual control) is used "to modify the individual data streams to accommodate the modified master timeline" as recited by claim 24. Moreover, the Examiner has not indicated what in Katseff corresponds to a slave control. Since new claims 58-99 are similarly directed to the master and slave control architecture, they are a patentable over Kalra and Katseff for similar reasons.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any

questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

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Respectfully submitted,

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